

"Be good, sweet maid, and let who can be clever ;
Do noble things, not dream them, all day long :
And make life, death, and all that vast forever
One grand, sweet song !"

Good success is the only success the Bible recognizes as its own.

This book of the law was to be continually in the mouth, not as a pleasant song whose melody dies upon the ear, nor as a tale told, where the interest ceases as the climax is reached ; but as words to be pondered upon, until they become ingrained into our very nature, and we observe to do according to all that is written therein. Until the Word becomes our life.

And those passages where "success" occurs as a marginal reading, have precisely the same connection. "Good success have all they that do His commandments. His praise endureth for ever."

We may now begin to see why the word success is not a favorite in Scripture phraseology. The end in view, as Goldsmith's advice presents it, and as the world generally accepts it, is not the way in which the Divine Word directs our feet, or the path along which it shines upon our steps. The successes for which the world strives are not satisfying. Satiated with all this life promises and gives, the end is, as the writer of Ecclesiastes declares—Vanity, vanity, and vexation of spirit. "Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?" Yet he succeeded in obtaining the crown of Israel ; and fell seven days after his success. Chief priests and people succeeded in putting the prophet of Nazareth out of the way ; and Pilate succeeded in preventing a tumult, by delivering Him over to be crucified. But Zion's towers soon fell under the destroyer ; Israel was scattered (not yet gathered again) ; and Pilate after all his policy, found disgrace, and died a suicide.

The rich fool succeeded in adding greatly to his possessions, and had wise plans for enjoying his prosperity ; but the pale messenger knocked silently at his door, and as he came into, so he departed from this world, a naked, shivering soul, with *fool* now branded upon his brow. I do not wonder that as our translators working, drank in continuously of the Bible spirit, the word "success" should fade from their mental vision. There is no good success that stops short of eternity ; but the success current on the market place, ends with the

death bed, and finds its grave with the perishing form it follows to the dust.

What seek ye ? There are treatises for the young on "success"—"How to succeed." They all point to eminence in some earthly calling ; a competency and honor. Integrity, virtue, piety, are all means to these ends which fade away. The entire course of truth as the Bible presents it is thereby prevented ; for wealth, honor, are not ends ; "He that will save his life shall lose it." They are blessings to be sought—not coveted and when attained, to be used as incentives to virtue, and to piety, means of blessing to all around. "Make to yourselves friends by means of the Mammon of unrighteousness." No true Christian's aim has its foundation on this earth. He may, and should have earthly aims ; honest success in business, a due regard to the honors the world gives ; but all subservient to the one great aim—Christ and his righteousness. "What things were gains to me, these have I counted loss for Christ." The comfort of a journey is something, and not to be neglected ; but the getting home is the greater attainment. Livingstone would gladly have had comfort upon his African travels, and provided therefor, when possible ; but to discover, and to reveal the secrets of that great continent, were the ends in view. And in that he succeeded, though in the lone hut amid the wilds, on his knees, in the darkness and alone, he left his fever-smitten body behind, and went home to his Saviour.

Who meet with "good success?" The eternal memorial wherever the gospel is preached, was for a simple tribute brought to the feet of Jesus ; the welcome to the joy of the Lord is for those, who, in the person of the suffering and the needy, visited and ministered unto their Lord ; and they who shall shine as the stars for ever and ever, are they who bring many to righteousness.

This is "good success," taking this book of the law with the Saviour to whom it witnesses ; finding in Him your pardon, propitiation, peace and life ; making thus your calling and election sure : for if ye do these things ye shall never stumble.

Otherwise your success will be that of the builders who succeeded in building their house up on the sand, on which the rain will descend, against which the floods will beat, and the winds blow, until it falls ; and in its fall, the builder's ruin will be complete.